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ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1 9 4 2

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
A T H E R T O N .
August, 1943.

August, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee, Atherton.

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health of the district for the year, 1942, most of which applied to the tenure of Dr. E. Taylor who was called to the Forces on 21st November, 1942.

I am grateful for the help and consideration given by the Chairman and members pending his return when the Emergency ends.

My best thanks are also due to the staff of the Department and other officers whose sustained interest made for continuity in working.

This report, in accordance with the wishes of the Ministry of Health, is confined mainly to matters of major importance.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A. PATTON,

M. O. H.

AREA of the District - 2,265 acres.
POPULATION at census 1931 - 19,989. Estimated population in
middle of 1942 - 19,530
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES at end of year - 5,880

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	(Legitimate	314	171	143
	Illegitimate	10	7	3
	Total	324	178	146
		Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1942		
Still Births	18	11	7	Rate per 1,000 total (Live & still) births 52
Deaths	201	100	101	Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population 10.3

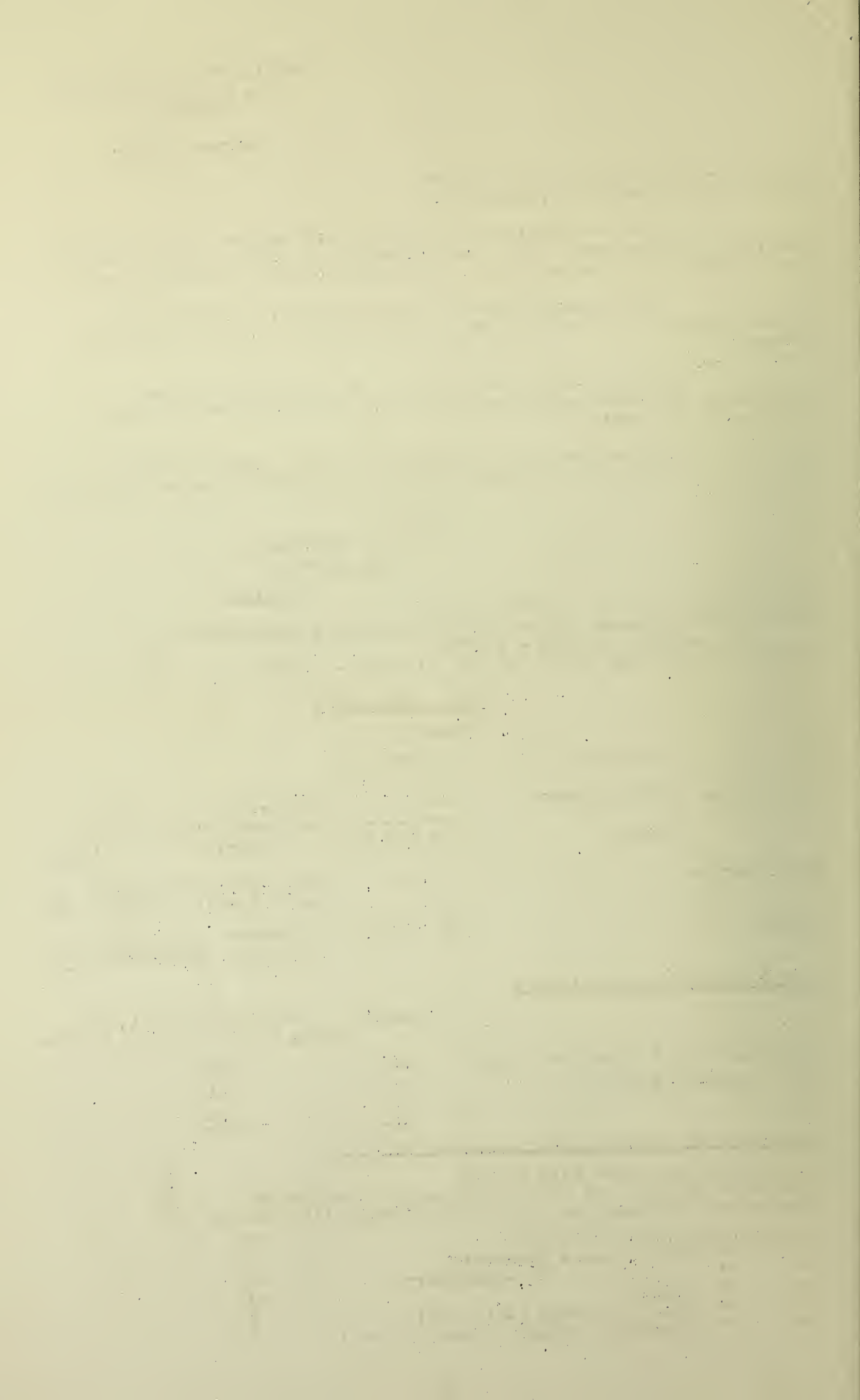
Deaths from puerperal causes

	Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births
Puerperal & post abortive sepsis	nil	nil
Other maternal causes	1	2.92
Total	<u>1</u>	<u>2.92</u>

Death-rate of infants under one year of age

All infants per 1,000 live births	74
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	73
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	100

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	27
" " Tuberculosis Pulmonary	3
" " " Non-pulmonary	3
" " Measles	nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1



Per 1,000 of estimated population					
	Live birthrate	Crude deathrate	Deathrate from tuberculosis of respiratory system	Deathrate from Cancer	Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live birth
Mean of 5 yrs 1937 - 1941	14.25	12.1	0.40	1.47	50
1941	16.1	12.5	0.45	1.52	75
1942	16.5	10.3	0.30	1.37	74
Increase or decrease in 1942 on 5 yrs average 1937 - 1941	+ 2.25	- 1.8	- 0.10	- 0.10	+ 24
Previous year	+ 0.4	- 2.2	- 0.15	- 0.15	- 1
England & Wales	15.8	11.6			49
Maternal Mortality rate					
	Per 1,000 live births		Per 1,000 total (live & still) births		
Mean of 5 years 1937 - 1941	4.00		3.81		
1941	6.27		5.95		
1942	3.12		2.92		
Increase or decrease in 1942 on 5 yrs' average 1937 - 1941	- 0.88		- 0.89		
Previous Year	- 3.15		- 3.03		
England & Wales	-		2.01		

WATER SUPPLY

The water from the Manchester and Bolton supplies was maintained in a satisfactory manner.

FOOD INSPECTION

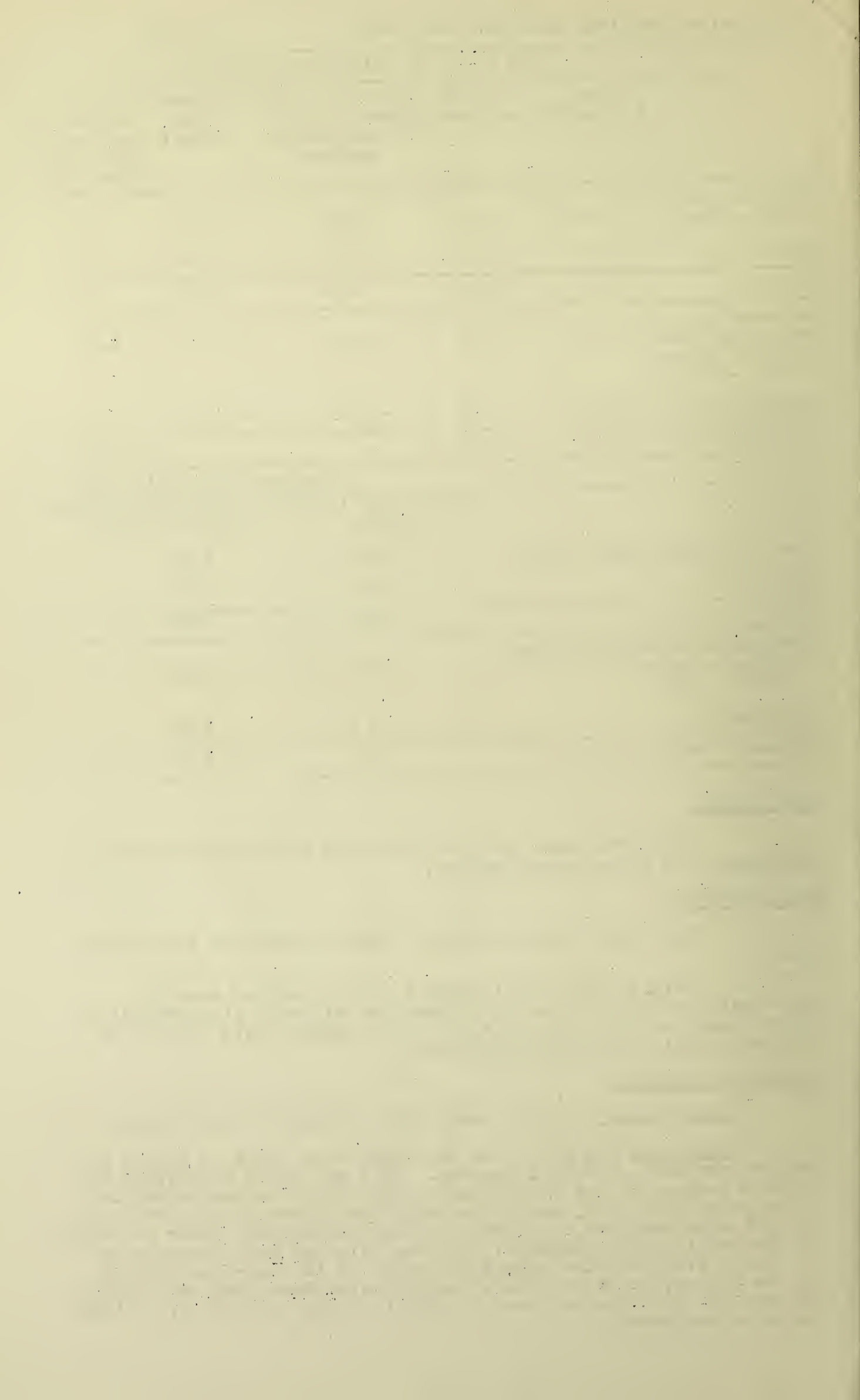
This work has been carried out continuously during the year.

Milk is the most important food requiring constant supervision as owing to war conditions the risks in its production are increased and the incidence of bovine tuberculosis greater in the older cattle now being maintained.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Tuberculosis in this area shows a diminished mortality.

Diphtheria has been less prevalent - 12 cases, 2 deaths of children who had not been immunised. Half the child population has now been immunised, but three-quarters should be protected before we are reasonably safe, and it is hoped that those parents who hold back for some careless or trivial reason will examine their conscience and then notify their consent. Willing help has been rendered by the Health Visitors, the Matron and staff of the War-time Nursery, and the Sister, First Aid Post. Arrangements have been made whereby children may be immunised free of cost by their own doctor, if that course is preferred.



Influenza of the weaker or B type was becoming widespread at the year's end, in many patients causing 2 to 3 weeks' incapacity. It was preceded in November by a large amount of respiratory catarrh - after each of three 'sooty' fogs at least a thousand more Athertonians began coughing.

Measles approached one of its periodic peaks in December, fortunately without serious after-effects. There was one fatality each from cerebro-spinal meningitis and whooping cough, although the total number notified was only 2 and 7 respectively.

Scarlet Fever accounted for some notifications (42) mostly very mild.

Scabies. The new rapid and effective treatment was carried out from March to December by the staff at Formby Hall in 611 cases. Fewer cases are now being reported, though there are still a few families who do not report even to their own doctors or the child welfare clinic.

Infant Mortality - The Atherton figure (74 per 1,000 births), like that of other Lancashire towns, still exceeds the average for England and Wales (49). In the last 10 years, as a result of brilliant research especially in the field of nutrition, some improvement has been brought about in general by better care of the expectant mother, including priority for vitamins which reduce the liability to premature births and toxic complications, but even the average figure is too high in the light of our present knowledge, and compared with what has been accomplished in Canada, Holland and Sweden.

The main causes of death are two:-

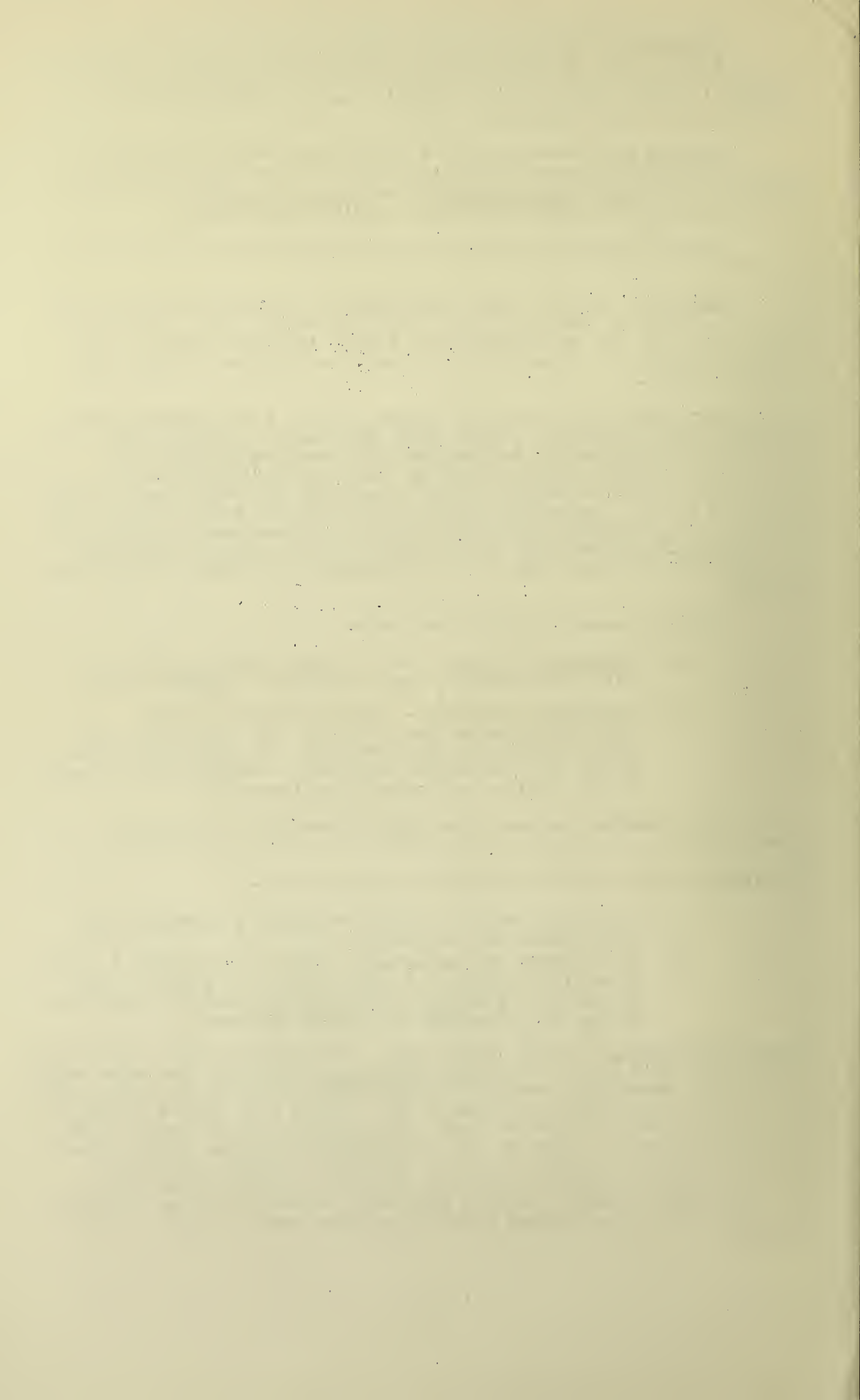
- (1) Premature births - more of these children would be saved by nursing in an 'incubator' hospital ward,
- (2) Bronchial Pneumonia - the prevention of this insidious disease has not kept pace with the other great strides in child welfare. In some cases this is due to a hitherto incomplete co-ordination between clinic advice and domiciliary treatment.

Environmental factors also play a part e.g. atmosphere, housing etc.

Two simple points often neglected by parents are:-

- (a) an infant who is coughing requires a constant room temperature day and night,
- (b) to a weakly or 'catarrhal' child in its first 6 weeks - a critical period - 'fresh air' as we know it from November to February is dangerous, however beneficial it may be to healthy and older children.

Industrial Health. In the autumn panel practitioners had a difficult time coping with a form of fatigue neurosis which affected some workers doing unsuitable work and others having insufficient relaxation. It is being more widely recognised that over a long period output is not proportional to hours of work, and enough evidence should soon have accumulated to convince the Ministries of Health, Labour, Fuel and Supply that in most industries a shorter working week would yield much better results, and not only in a psychological sense. The industrial medical officers have been co-operative and obliging, but under the stress of war conditions their work is still in its infancy.



Ambulance and Hospital Service. The ambulance service compares favourably with that in any of the surrounding districts, and we are greatly indebted to the Hospitals who do their best for us in spite of the increasing strain on their resources. During the year 532 stretcher cases and 1,262 sitting cases were carried, mainly to Leigh, Bolton, Wigan and the Manchester and Salford Hospitals.

Housing. After the Armistice early priorities are expected for agriculture, education and health services, but for urban authorities No. 1 is likely to be housing.

While we should be ever mindful of the need for early Victory, and though demobilisation may be a slow process, it is common prudence to prepare for the stealthy approach of Peace.

After the last great war 'inflationary' building brought rents and prices of houses to a pitch which bit deeply into the family income and often left little for other necessities of life.

There was undoubted improvement in amenities and surroundings, but this time, with Housing at present one of the numerous pre-occupations of the Ministry of Health, it is hoped that something more worthy of the expenditure incurred will be evolved, and more in keeping with the health and comfort of the housewife.

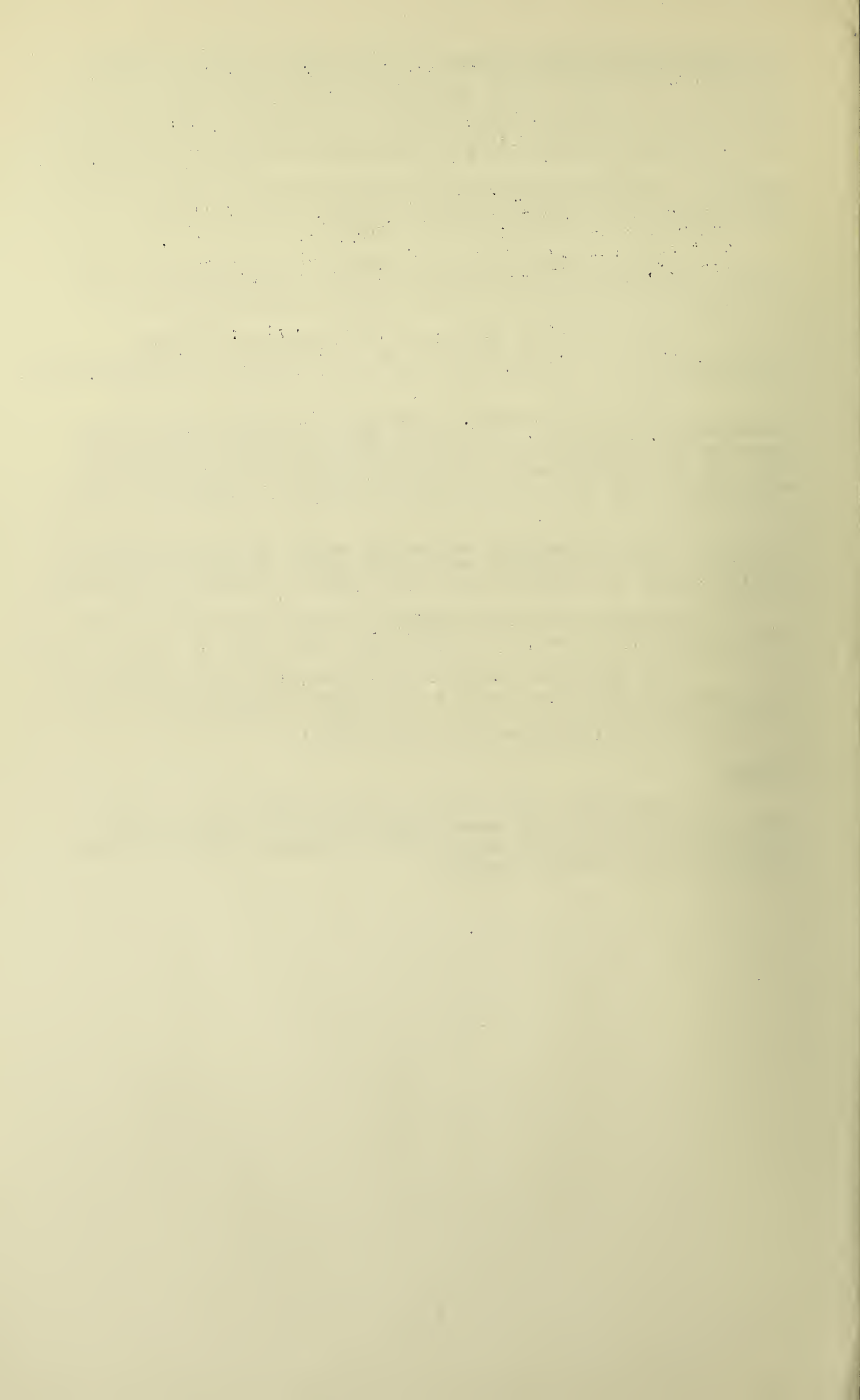
The soil beneath and the air above will also demand attention, even in districts where the shrine of George Stephenson and the throne of King Coal are still held in unabated veneration.

Locally, about 450 families at the moment are on the list for Council houses, and this figure may easily be doubled later.

Not only are ex-servicemen's families to be catered for (for obvious reasons no less a problem than in 1919), but other children who have never yet seen the light of shop windows, and not forgetting the spinsters who also pay rates!

General

Throughout the year the routine inspection and work were carried out with his usual energy by Mr. F. Markland, the Sanitary Inspector, while Miss M. Lowe attacked a mass of office detail with courtesy and success.



Causes of death during the year

1 9 4 2

Registrar General's Return

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-
Diphtheria	2	-
Measles	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-
Acute Infective Encephalitis	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	1
Influenza	-	-
Syphilis	1	1
Cancer	16	11
Diabetes	-	4
Intra. cran. Vasc. Lesions	7	11
Heart Diseases	15	16
Diarrhoea (Under 2 yrs)	1	-
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	3
Bronchitis	8	10
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	5	1
Peptic Ulcer, etc.	-	-
Appendicitis	2	-
Other Digestive Diseases	4	3
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	4
Puerperal Diseases	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Births	8	6
Senility	-	-
Suicide	-	1
Other violence	4	2
Other Defined Diseases	18	18
ALL CAUSES	100	101
Deaths of infants under one year		
Total	14	10
Legitimate	13	10
Illegitimate	1	-
Still Births		
Total	11	7
Legitimate	11	7
Illegitimate	-	-
Live Births		
Total	178	146
Legitimate	171	143
Illegitimate	7	3

POPULATION - Middle of 1942 (Estimate) =

19, 530

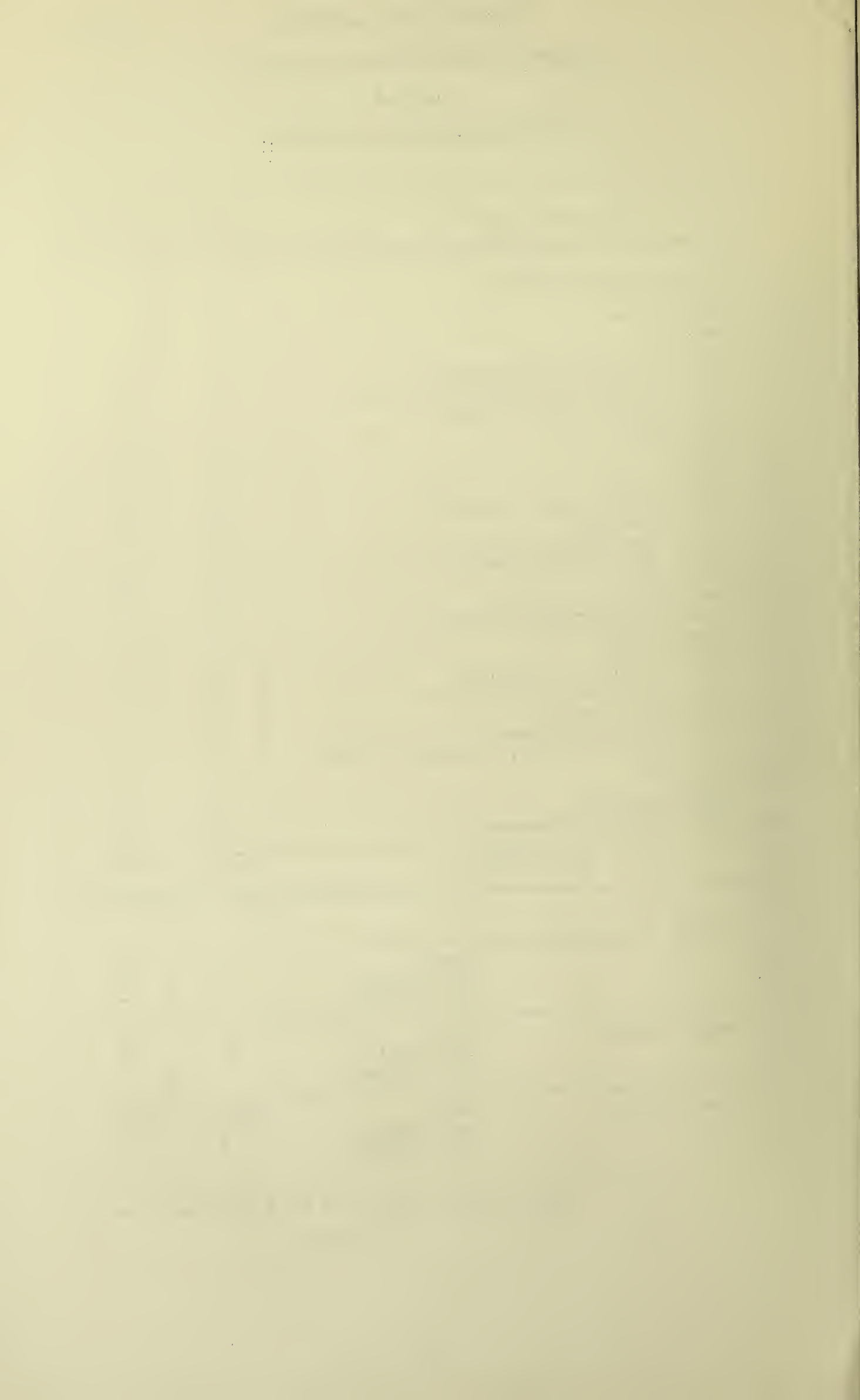


TABLE 2

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1942 ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS

Compiled Locally

CAUSE	YEARS															Totals
	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 60	60 to 65	65 to 70	70 to 75	75 to 80	Over 80	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Pneumonia	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	9
Heart Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	7	2	3	4	2	-	5
Cerebral Haemorrhage	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	5	1	-	-	-	37
Arterio Sclerosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	10	-	-	-	-	18
Cancer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cerebro spinal fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
Prem. Births & Cong. Debility	13	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pregnancy Other Acc.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Appendicitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
Diabetes	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Brain and Nerve Diseases	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Violence excluding Suicides	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Suicides	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Other Defined Diseases	3	-	-	1	-	1	2	6	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Senile Decay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
TOTALS	24	3	5	2	1	1	7	15	21	11	24	30	18	19	21	202

Note:- Statistics compiled locally do not always agree with those of the Registrar General who has facilities for further investigation.

TABLE 3

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1942

DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS

Compiled Locally

CAUSE	North	East	South	West	Central	Sex		Total	Total Deaths in Hospitals (Inward Trans)	
						Males	Females		M.	F.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	-	1	-	1	2	1	3	1	-
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
Diphtheria	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	-
Pneumonia	6	4	4	3	3	9	11	20	3	5
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bronchitis	2	3	1	1	2	4	5	9	1	-
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	8	2	8	7	16	21	37	1	5
Heart Diseases	10	1	2	5	7	7	11	18	3	5
Cerebral Haemorrhage	3	4	-	1	-	16	2	27	2	-
Arterio Sclerosis	7	1	5	7	8	7	11	13	2	1
Cancer	4	1	-	1	2	7	6	15	2	2
Prem. Births & Cong. Debility	1	2	-	1	-	2	1	3	-	1
Pregnancy Other Acc.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis	1	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	-	1
Appendicitis	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-
Diabetes	1	1	-	2	2	4	3	8	1	2
Diseases of Brain and Nerve	2	3	-	2	1	6	2	8	2	2
Violence Excluding Suicides	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suicides	1	6	-	7	-	13	1	14	10	1
Other Defined Diseases	8	1	2	3	5	5	9	14	2	3
Senile Decay	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T O T A L S	56	36	21	45	44	101	101	202	42	39

TABLE 4

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1942

DISEASE	Total cases at all ages	CASES NOTIFIED															Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
		Under 1			1 to 2			2 to 3			3 to 4			4 to 5					5 to 10			10 to 15			15 to 20			20 to 35			35 to 45			45 to 65			65 and over																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																

Tuberculosis Notifications

Pulmonary Tuberculosis Males	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Females	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis Males	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Females	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	

TABLE 5.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1942

DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS

DISEASE	North Ward	East Ward	South Ward	West Ward	Central Ward	P.A. Inst.	Sex		Total	Removed to Hospitals.
							M.	F.		
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	10	5	13	11	3	-	17	25	42	32
Diphtheria	6	4	-	2	-	-	7	5	12	12
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	14	5	2	5	11	-	24	13	37	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
Erysipelas	1	4	2	3	-	1	4	7	11	2
Measles	108	25	45	60	18	16	132	140	272	-
Whooping Cough	9	4	1	3	-	-	7	10	17	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	1	3	4	2	-	5	5	10	-
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	1	1	2	3	-	3	4	7	-
T O T A L S	151	51	68	92	37	17	200	216	416	50

